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A LETTER FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

Ferdinando Lord *Fairfax*, Sir *Hugh Cholmley*, Sir *Philip Stapleton*, Sir *Henry Cholmley*, Committees of the Commons House of Parliament, residing at *York*.

TOGETHER,

With a Relation of all the passages at the great meeting at *York*, on Thursday the 12. of this instant May.

With the Free holders Protestation inclosed in the Letter from the said Committee to Mr. *Speaker*, and Ordered by the said House to be forthwith published in Print.

Hen. Elsing. Cler. Parl. de Com.

LONDON. Printed by *B. Alsop*, for *Robert Wood*. *May* 18. 1642.

SIR,

IN our last Letter we gave you an Accompt of our first and second waiting on the King, we writ to you then, that his Majesty commanded us to attend him yesterday being Thursday, to hear what he said to the Gentlemen, Which a little before the meeting, he seconded by a particular Message. Being come thither, his Majestie caused the severall Messages between him and the Parliament, mentioned in this inclosed printed Paper to be read.

This was done with much humming, and applause of the Kings Messages by some persons who had placed themselves neer about where the King stood. But when any thing from the Parliament came to be read, with so much hissing, and reviling the Parliament that though in respect, and Duty to the Kings Person, we could not resent it, as otherwise We should have done, yet have since expostulated, and complained of it to his Majesty. Some were so bold as to say openly, That the Parliament men should set their Horses in Order, for many of them should shortly have their Heads off; One of which (as since wee are credible informed) was one *Hurst*, a Servant to one Master *William Crofts*. In this which was said by the King, you will see what reason Wee had to vindicate our selves, and therefore we immediatly repaired to the Deans House with all the other Gentlemen, and there wee took notice of the rough usage we had received; Wee told them that it was neither indiscretion nor disobedience in us (as His Majestie was pleased to call it) to deliver the Parliaments Message, or stay here though commanded to the contrary, since we conceived no man needed to be satisfied in so cleer a Case as this

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this, That every Member of each House ought to obey their Commands, when they were pleased to employ them. But since his Majesty thought fit to bid them, take heed of us, not knowing what doctrine of disobedience we might preach to them under colour of obeying the Parliament, we appealed to every man, whether we had in word or deed, in publike or in private, done any thing that became not honest men, and persons employed from the Parliament. That we had communicated our Instructions to his Majesty, being that we would avow all our Actions, and that we were confident it would not be laid, we had transgressed them. This was very well taken and justified by the Countrey. Yesterday there came divers thousands of Freeholders to this City, though none but the Gentry were summoned, but receiving a Command from the King not to come to Court, they forbore, and stayed in the Castle yard, yet sent this Petition enclosed to his Majestie, and received the Answer annexed thereunto. There was likewise a Committee of twelve Gentlemen appointed yesternight to consider of drawing up an Answer to the Kings proposition concerning a Guard, but nothing could be then done, because it was past three a clock before the Gentlemen were admitted to the King. This morning the Freeholders assembled again in the Castle yard, and there they made this Protestation enclosed, of their right of voting in what concerneth the peace of the Countrey, as having their interest therin.

When we all met this morning again at the Deanes house, we who are your Committees received this message by Sir *Edward Stanhop*, that he came from his Majesty to command us, that we should depart from this meeting, and if we did stay, His Majesty would judge us guilty of that he spake on yesterday, which was Tampering. Notwithstanding which Command, we read the fourth Article of our Instructions to the whole Company, that being pertinent to the businesse we were then upon, and desired them to consider, whether the Parliament had not expressed therein such a care of the Kings safety, that there would be little need of Guards: We told them that we had a good right of being there as Freeholder of the County, but that in obedience to the King we would depart for this time: But whensoever

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there should be occasion of our being there in pursuance of our Instructions and commands from the Parliament, we should be ready. The whole company received great satisfaction, and desired a Copy of that instruction which wee gave them. Wee were the more willing at that time to goe from thence, because wee should not onely give Obedience to the Kings command, which otherwise he would have said, wee constantly disobeyed, but because the Committee of Twelve appointed yesternight were then to withdraw, so that there was nothing for the present for us to doe; We immediately went to the King, and besought him that since wee were continually so discountenanced by him, in the face of our County, that hee would be pleased to let us know in particular wherein we had given the occasion, for wee otherwise conceived we were deprived of that Liberty, which was our due in respect of that interest wee had here. His Majesty was pleased to tell us, that if wee would lay aside that condition of Committees from the Parliament, hee would not hinder us to bee there as Gentlemen of the Country; We humbly replyed, that wee could not lay that downe nor could we be absent from any meeting where our presence was required, for the service as Committees from the Parliament: to which his Majesty said, That indeed hee thought wee could not lay it downe, neither that it was reasonable we should have Votes, and be in a double Capacity. The Committee hath been together most part of this day, but not agreeing: Sixe of them have drawne up this Answer enclosed, which they have communicated to the Gentlemen, and Freeholders. The greater part of the Gentlemen, and all the Freeholders have agreed to, and subscribed it. The other six have concluded upon this other Answer consenting to a Guard of Horse, but this we doe not heare, that they have gotten many names too, nor can wee get a Copie of those names as yet, though these bee very few, yet whether they can bring in any Horse or no we cannot yet judge. The King hath received both these resolutions, which with his Answers to them you shall likewise have here enclosed. His Majesty had declared

declared himself yesterday, that he would raise that Regiment, which was Sir *Robert Strickland's* for his foot guard, but he hath now laid aside that Resolution. The Freeholders of the Countie are now newly summoned to attend his Majesty about a weeke hence, the three Rydings upon three severall dayes, but for what service we doe not know.

Sir, you have here a large Narrative of the passages at this meeting; what dangers this poore Countrey lyes under, wee humbly referre it to you to judge, not taking upon us to deliver any opinion. The businesse lasted so long, that it hindered us from giving a more speedy accompt. Sir, This is what at this time is sent from

Your assured Friends and servants,

Yorke 13. May 1642.

Fer. Fairfax.
Hugh Cholmley.
Philip Stapleton.
He. Cholmley.

The Answer to His Majesties Propositions, of the Gentlemen and Freeholders which subscribed the same at the Deanes House, *where the Sheriffe was.*

May it please your most Sacred Majesty,

THE Propositions delivered to us yesterday from Your Majesty are of so high concernment to the weale and peace of the whole Kingdome, and doth so nearly touch upon the affection and fidelity of all your subjects in generall, as we being but a part of one Countie onely, doe not conceive it safe for us to advise therein, but rather humbly to beseech your Majesty to impart the grounds of your Majesties Feares

and Jelouſies to your High Court of Parliament (of whoſe moſt loyall care and affection to your Majeſties honour and ſafety, and the proſperity of your Subjects and Dominions we are moſt confident) and whatſoever ſhall be advſed by your great Councell therin we ſhall moſt willingly imbrace and give our concurrence and aſſiſtance to it as ſhall become us, In whoſe fidelity and affection your Majeſty hath often declared eſpeciall truſt; And albeit we doe not preſume to advſe your Majeſty in that particular being of tranſcendent conſequence, nevertheleſſe in the behalfe of thoſe members of Parliament lately imployed to attend your Majeſty from both Houſes, being all of them Gentlemen of quality and eſtate in this Countie, and truſted to ſerve in that moſt Honourable Aſſembly; Wee humbly crave your Majeſties leave to expreſſe our confidence in their unſtained Loyalty and affection to your majeſty to be ſuch as your majeſty may ſecurely admit their attendance to negotiate their imployments, until they be recalled by the Parliament. And for their fidelity, we doe all ingage our ſelves to your majeſty, and we are moſt aſſured that your Royall perſon ſhall be ſecure in the generall Fidelity of your ſubjects of this Countie without any extraordinary guard.

His Majeſties Anſwer to this returned by the Sheriffes.

HIs Majeſty expects the like affection from you, that he doth from the other Gentlemen; and that he hath the ſame confidence in you, that he hath in the others.

The names of thoſe Gentlemen which were taken by the Sheriffe.

Sir Thomas Fairefax		Sir William Crayley.
Sir William Conſtable.		Sir Thomas Norcliffe.
Sir Matthew Boynton.		Sir Arthur Ingram.
Sir Thomas Gower.		Sir Richard Darley.
Sir William St. Quintin.		Sir Jarvis Cutler.
Sir Edward Rhodes.		Sir William Fairefax.
Sir Hugh Bethell.	Sir John Savell.	Sir William Lyſter.
Sir Tho. Remington.	M. Tho. Jopſon.	Henry St. Quintin.
Arthur Nevell.	Tobias Jenkins.	John Ferrer.

Sir

John West.	Henry Atkinson.	Henry Wythes.
William Bethell.	George Mountain.	Thomas Stockdale.
William Gower.	Richard Trewman.	Sackvill Pope.
Thomas Heblethwaite.	George Eure.	George Marwood.
John Savile of Medlee.	John Saltmarsh.	William Copley.
Lionell Copley.	Edward Gower.	Cuthbert Creake.
William Cob.	Doyley Gower.	Thomas Rookby.
John Calverley.	Francis Grimstone.	John Anlaby.
Arthur Beckwith.	Christopher Waters.	Matthew Beckwith.
Christopher Copley.	Thomas Croft.	William Parker.
George Trotter.	Henry Westbie.	William Ienings.
Thomas Bradford.	Richard Wilbore.	Iob Hackwood.
Mathew Allured	Robert Shepheard	Iohn Acklam.
Iohn Stillington.	Iervas Hamond.	Iohn Cholmley.
Thomas Newark	Henry Savile	Lancelott Allured
Iohn Lambert.	Francis Grimston.	M. Stephen Quinsin
Willoby Godfrey	John Stillington	Iohn Beverley
Mr. Bointon	George Westby	Benjamin Browne
Charles Fairfax	Henry Arthington	Henry Tempest.

These are the names subscribed in one sheet, there being many other sheets filed together, all of them subscribed, and amongst them many Gentlemen of note, but I took note onely of the first sheet having no more time.

To the Kings most excellent Majesty.

WE Knights and Gentlemen whose names are subscribed do unanimously present this our Answer to your Majesties Propositions concerning the raising of a Guard of horse for the security and defence of your sacred person.

To which proposition we, as we conceive our selves bound by Allegiance, do willingly concur. For that purpose humbly desiring that the aforesaid may be raised by legall Authority: And likewise that it may consist of persons unquestionable in their Religion, and Gentlemen.

The substance of His Maiesties Answer.

His Majesty gave them thanks, for it appeared as a satisfactory Answer, and in it they had shewed great circumspection and wisedome, by chusing such whose Loyalties could not be questioned, by excluding Recusants and all suspected to be disaffected.

The

The Protestation of the Freeholders, May 13. 1642.

WHereas his Majesty hath been pleased to give Summons to the Gentry of this County to attend him at his Court at Yorke the [illegible] of May, to advise with him in some particulars concerning the honour and safety of his Majesties person, and the well being and peace of this our County, and in the said summons was pleased to omit the Freeholders of this County, out of a tender respect of putting them to any extraordinary charge, yet we confessors of our sincere loyalty to his Majesty our Gracious Soveraign, and conceiving our selves according to the proportions of our estates, equally interested in the common good of the County, did take boldness to come in person to York, and were ready to attend his Majesties pleasure there. And where his Majesty was then pleased to propound severall things to the purpose aforesaid, at the meeting of the Country, to consider a fit Answer to return to his Majesty thereupon, the doors of the meeting house were shut against us, we utterly excluded, and in our absence a Referre of Knights and gentlemen chosen without our knowledge or consent to draw up the said answer; We the Freeholders who petitioned his Majesty the day abovesaid concerning our selves abundantly injured in the election (not knowing any warrant by writ or otherwise for the same) of the said Referree, and that we ought not however to be concluded by any resolution of theirs without our assent in their election, do absolutely protest and declare against the said election, and as far as concerns us disavow whatsoever shall bee the result of their consultation thereupon, and do desire, a new and fair election of a Referree may be made, wee admitted to our free Votes in the same, and some one or more to be nominated by us, also ved to deliver our sence for us at another meeting. And that we shall not make good in the least respect any thing whatsoever which shall otherwise be concluded upon.

FINIS.